

Nury Turkel

Nury A. Turkel is an attorney, author, foreign policy expert, and advocate with nearly two decades of experience working in the intersection of law, business, government, and the human rights community.

He specializes in corporate governance and regulatory compliance, national security, foreign policy, digital authoritarianism, and forced labor and supply chain risk issues.



He is currently serving as Chair of the [US Commission on International Religious Freedom](#) after being appointed as a Commissioner by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in May 2020. He has testified before the US Congress, speaking about Uyghur internment camps and advocating a legislative response to China's atrocities. His policy recommendations have been incorporated into US law and pending bills relating to Uyghurs and China.

As a rights advocate, he has led efforts to raise the profile of the Uyghur cause, previously as the president of the Uyghur American Association and now Chair of the Uyghur Human Rights Project, which he co-founded in 2003. He also advised past and present leadership of the World Uyghur Congress.

He is a senior fellow at Washington think tank, the [Hudson Institute](#), where he works on US foreign policy and national security issues. He is also a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Turkel is a globally recognized opinion leader and policy expert on matters involving Uyghurs and China. His policy-oriented essays appeared in major publications such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times Foreign Policy*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, and *USA Today*. He frequently provides commentaries on TV and radio programs, including *CNN*, *BBC*, *Radio Free Asia*, *Fox News*, *PBS*, *NPR*, *Al Jazeera*, and *France 24*.

In 2020, he was in [TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World list](#), and in 2021, he was listed as one of [Fortune's 50 Greatest Leaders](#). In June 2021, he

received the inaugural Notre Dame Prize for Religious Liberty. In September, he was awarded the “Global Soul Award” by Jewish World Watch.

He holds a Juris Doctor and a Master of Arts in International Relations degrees from American University. He resides in the Washington, DC, area.

In 2022, his memoir, “*No Escape: The True Story of China’s Genocide of the Uyghurs*” was published in the US, UK, and Finland.